

*Young Men's Institute*

*Board of Grand Directors*

*Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2022*

***Call to Order*** — Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. PST via a Zoom Conference Call.

***Opening Prayer*** — The opening prayer was offered by Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 in the absence of Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present.

***Pledge of Allegiance*** — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Phil Fondale #900, Grand Marshal.

***Roll Call*** — Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, was excused from this meeting. Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of Brother Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD who had recently passed away. He then found that the following Brothers were present:

**Grand Officers:**

Eugene Espinola #94, GD, DDGP

Domenic Carinalli #54, GD

Bill Walls #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD, DDGP

Tommy Figueira #573, GD

Darrell Fonseca #99, GP

Steve Cresci #32, GFVP

Bill Avery #80, GSVP

Phil Fondale #900, GM, DDGP

Nick Franceschine #54, IPGP

**Cosmo Amato #613, GIS**

**Tom Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager**

**Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant Business Manager**

**Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP**

**Alex Preciado #2, DDGP**

**Grand Officers who asked to be excused:**

**Paul Larson #32, GD**

**Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC**

**Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS**

**Clement Gusman #573, DDGP**

**Bill McNeany #40, GD, DDGP**

**Jack Albrecht #32, GT**

**Bob Fiorito # 613, GOS**

**Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP**

**Grand Officers marked absent:**

**Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP**

**Bob Bacchetti #92, DDGP**

**Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP**

***Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors July 30, 2022 Meeting –***

**Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 30, 2022 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Alex Schmitt asked that the July 30, 2022 minutes include two topics from New Business that were not in the current minutes: a clearer copy of the Essay Contest Entry Form be placed on the website and the publishing of the grant amounts from the Seminarian Foundation also appear on the website and the inclusion of the Seminarian Foundation in the Grand Council By-Laws.**

**Brother Bill Walls #80, Grand Director, made the motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2022 as amended. It was seconded by Brother Billy Avery #80, Grand**

Second Vice President. There was no discussion. The Board voted to accept the minutes as amended unanimously.

*Special Order of Business: Grand President's appointment of a new Board Member due to the death of Brother Frank Hepburn #2, PGP* – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, GP recommended that Brother Alex Preciado #2 fill the opening on the Board of Grand Directors created by the passing of Brother Frank Hepburn #2, PGP. Brother Preciado is from the same Council, San Jose Council #2 and has participated in past Grand Directors meetings as a District Deputy Grand President. Brother Fonseca made the motion to approve Br. Preciado to become the new Grand Director. The motion was seconded by Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP. The motion passed unanimously. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, GD requested Brother Preciado to fill Br. Hepburn's committee assignments going forward.

*Communications* - Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary was excused and therefore there was no report from his Office.

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

1. Council Bulletins received:
  - a. American Council #8 – August and September
  - b. South San Francisco Council #32 – August and September
  - c. Santa Rosa Council #40 – September
  - d. Sadoc Council #59 – September
  - e. Francis Council #573: August and September
  - f. St. John Bosco Council #613: August and September
2. Thank you card from Birthright for the check from the proceeds of the 50/50 raffles at the Convention.
3. Copy of letter sent to Councils with checks from the motion made by the Board of Grand Directors regarding Article 1, Section 11 of the Grand Council By-Laws.
4. Copy of the letter sent to Councils with their copies of electronic postcard tax filings for Councils with less than \$50,000 income.
5. August and September copies of Oakland Diocese "Catholic Voice" magazines.
6. September/October copy of the Sacramento Diocese "Catholic Herald" magazine.

*Reports of the Grand Treasurer* – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer was excused from this meeting. Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager presented the Grand Treasurer’s two-page financial report that had been e-mailed to all Officers the week previous. There were no questions at this time. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors, asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Gene Espinola #94, Grand Director, made the motion to accept and Brother Domenic Carinalli #54, Grand Director, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

*Reports of Grand Directors on the Board of Grand Directors Committees for the year 2022-2023* – Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Chairman of the Board of Grand Directors asked for reports from the Grand Directors assigned to the Grand Directors Committees for the 2022-2023 YMI year:

Charters/Archives: Brothers Eugene Espinola #94, Tommy Figueira #573, and Paul Larson #32, Bill Walls #80

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Finance: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, and Paul Larson #32

This committee reviews the monthly bills of Grand Council and two members sign off on each bill. This is usually done around the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month in conjunction with the Business Manager and the Grand Treasurer. Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD noted that the replacement for Brother Hepburn is needed (to be filled by Br. Preciado). Also, all are in order as Brother Larson had signed off on the checks.

Long Range Planning: Brothers Alexander Schmitt #8, Alex Preciado #2, Bill McNeany #40, and Tommy Figueira #573

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Council Activities: Brothers Domenic Carinalli #54, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Walls #80

There was no report for this committee at this time.

Insurance: There were no specific Board Members assigned to this committee as it is handled directly through the Grand Council Office.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

**Fund Raising:** No specific assignments were made at this time.

There was no report for this committee at this time.

**Supplies:** Brothers Alex Preciado #2 and Eugene Espinola #94

There was no report for this committee at this time.

**Grand Council Planning Committee:** Joining Brothers Tom Fourie #32, Bob Bartoli #32, Michael Dimech #613, Michael Amato #613 are Darrell Fonseca #99, Steve Cresci #32, Bill Avery, #80 and Tommy Figueira #573

Brother Fonseca reported that the committee had met three times to go over bids from Fresno and Lake Tahoe. While the committee gave strong consideration to Fresno, the economics of the bids persuaded the committee to reach consensus in selecting Lake Tahoe again. The committee is looking at 2024 Convention planning locales.

Brother Fourie indicated he had contacted the Bally Hotel in Tahoe and we have reserved our 2023 Convention at 2022 prices.

***Grand President's Report*** – Grand President Darrell Fonseca #99 had previously sent out an e-mail concerning items he planned to report on at the Board meeting on September 17, 2022, they are as follows:

Throughout August, visited several potential convention sites and did due diligence.

08-02-2022 – Official visit and Scholarship presentation for Dos Palos Council #99.

08-03-2022 – Official Visit to St. Columba Council #94 in Chowchilla, CA.

08-07-2022 – Enjoyed Council #613's Picnic at St. Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno, CA.

08-14-2022 – Official Visit and Picnic with St. Christopher Council #80 in Atwater, CA.

08-15-2022 – Participated in Convention Planning Committee meeting.

08-18-2022 – Conducted Vigil Service for PGP Frank Hepburn #2 in Fremont, CA.

08-20-2022 – Met in Turlock with President Daniel Santos of Holy Rosary Council #44.

**08-24-2022 – Official Visit with Santa Rosa Council #40 at Brew House and St. Rose's Church.**

**08-24-2022 – Official Visit and Barbecue with Sebastopol #54 at Carinalli Vineyard.**

**09-01-2022 – Attended Seminarian Foundation meeting by Zoom.**

**09-01-2022 – Led Convention Planning Committee meeting for 2023 Grand Session.**

**09-10-2022 – Official Visit with American Council #8 of Oakland in Alameda.**

**09-12-2022 – Submitted Nomination of Alex Preciado for Board of Grand Directors.**

**09-13-2022 – Attended Dos Palos #99 regular meeting.**

**09-15-2022 – Conferred with Business Manager Brother Tom Fourie PGP.**

**09-17-2022 – Board of Grand Directors Meeting, Zoom Call.**

**As of September 17, 2022, I have made 6 Official Visits, have scheduled 8 more and have 6 yet to schedule.**

***Grand First Vice President's Report* – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand First Vice President provided all the officers with an email summarizing his activities and they are listed here:**

**Worked on letters in connection with the Pro Patria Raffle & Essay contest.**

**Meetings via Zoom:**

**8/1 – Special Planning Meeting for 2023 Grand Council Sessions**

**8/15 – Planning Meeting for 2023 Grand Council Sessions**

**9/1 – Seminarian Foundation Committee Meeting**

**9/7 – Council #32 Food Basket Committee Meeting**

**Other Meetings:**

**8/11 – Council #32 Business Meeting**

**9/8 – Council #32 Business Meeting**

**Attended Council #613's Picnic, and attended funeral services for both Brother Frank Hepburn and Mrs. Nandina Bartoli.**

***Grand Second Vice President's Report*** – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Second Vice President, covered activities including efforts to arrange the 2023 Red & White Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Atwater on March 11, 2023.

***Grand Secretary's Report/Business Manager's Report***

The Grand Secretary was excused from this meeting.

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since July 30, 2022 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

August 1 – Zoom call with the Convention Planning Committee

August 11- Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting

August 12 – Begin the process of preparing State Tax filings (postcard) for Councils with less than \$50,000 income

August 13 – Begin process of preparing Federal Tax filings (postcard) for Councils with less than \$50,000 income, this process was changed for the 2021 tax year resulting in additional assistance needed

August 14 – visited with Mrs. Nancy Bartoli for help on Federal Tax filings

August 15 – Visited with Brother Ed Sutton #32 who works with the Grand Treasurer on Grand Council taxes. Very helpful and was able to complete the Federal Tax post card process

August 15 – Zoom call with the Convention Planning Committee

\*\*\*Daily phone calls and e-mails

\*\*\* Trips to Burlingame Post Office to pick up mail from the Post Office Box

August 19 – Attended Brother Frank Hepburn's #2, PGP funeral Mass at St. Victor's Catholic Church in San Jose

August 20 – Prepared and signed off on YMI monthly bills, forward to the Grand Treasurer

August 20 – Prepared warrants for individual Councils for delegates attending the 137<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Session

\*\*\*On-going paperwork for processing YMI Death Benefits

August 23 – Completed Board of Grand Directors minutes from the July 30, 2022 Board Meeting and emailed them

August 24 – Attended Sebastopol Council #54's BBQ at the Carinalli Vineyard

**August 25 – Prepared and emailed the Treasurer’s Report for the Seminarian Foundation Meeting**

**August 29 – Began the lengthy process of changing Associate Members to Benefit Members in the computer with names of beneficiaries (an on-going job)**

**August 31 – Zoom call with the Convention Planning Committee**

**September 1 – Attended the Funeral Mass for the mother of Brother Bob Bartoli**

**September 1 – Attended the Seminarian Education Foundation Zoom meeting**

**September 1 – Final Zoom call with the Convention Planning Committee**

**September 4 – Prepared Education Foundation memorials and mailed**

**September 8 – Began the process of assisting GFVP Steve Cresci with letters, etc. for the Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle**

**September 8 – Attended South San Francisco Council #32 Business Meeting**

**\*\*\*This is definitely only a partial list**

**In addition to the above summary of activities of the Grand Council Office, Brother Fourie began a discussion of the need for the Grand Council to once again visit individual Councils (business vs social official visits) in order to remind Council officers of processes and protocols. He indicated this need as he is seeing irregularities in Council reports (financials, membership counts) - a discussion ensued. Brother Schmitt #8, GD wondered if a 10-year review was covered in the By-Laws, with the answer given as no. Brother Cresci suggested this effort be coordinated with the Audit Committee. Brother Fourie also reminded all Officers that every Council’s By-Laws will need to be updated and approved by Grand Council following the action taken by the State of the Institute motion at the recent Convention.**

**Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP inquired about the Death Benefit Form compliance for former Associate Members. Brother Fourie reported a few Councils have been active in submitting forms, but have only seen a few from other Councils. A discussion ensued where recommendations for Official Visits be used to remind Councils to work toward compliance. Councils urged to send in a critical mass of information collected from members and not wait for 100% compliance.**

**Brother Phil Fondale #900, GM asked whether the PO Box number would be changed. Brother Fourie indicated no change is needed.**



*Reports of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees:* in accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors is to be assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2022-2023. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

The following are the Board Appointments and current reports for 2022-2023:

**Audit Committee – Brother Alex Preciado #2, DDGP – no report**

**Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President – no report**

**Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – no report**

**Ceremonials Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94 – no report**

**Credentials Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54 – no report**

**Institute Journal Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32...Brother Fourie summarized potential topics for the next newsletter inviting members to submit articles by the deadline of October 31, 2022...these topics included but not limited to: Grand President, Essay Contest/Raffle, Red and White Mass, 2023 Convention, Man/Council of the Year, Deceased Brothers, Ed Foundation Memorials, New Members. Seminarian Foundation Donations, Holiday Greetings, Board of Grand Directors Article, Grand Chaplain, Golf, Bowling, Visits by Grand President and Grand Council Office, State of the Institute for 2023, Individual Council news, etc.**

**Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80...Considering the State of the Institute change on Death Benefits removing the Associate Member category, Brother Fourie reminded all Councils that they need to look at their own By-Laws to ensure conformity (e.g. removing Associate Member category) and all Changes to Council By-Laws must be approved by the Board of Grand Directors.**

**Man and Council of the Year Committee – No appointment was made and ads have been published in the Institute Journal and will continue to appear there.**

**Membership Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40 – no report**

**Pro Deo Committee – Br. Bill Walls #80 – reference to the prior discussion of the Red and White Mass.**

**Pro Patria – Br. Paul Larson #32 – reference to the prior discussion on the Pro Patria Essay and Raffle.**

**Organization Committee – No appointment was made.**

**Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40... Brother Alex Schmitt #8, GD requested members be appointed by the Grand President to fill vacancies.**

**State of the Institute Committee – Br. Domenic Carinalli #54, Br. Tommy Figueira #573 – Brother Franceschine reported getting organized with his committee to begin the process for next year. Brother Nick shared that one proposal received would eliminate District Deputies as a body, as some only represent one Council and may not be needed with the internet. Matter to be discussed with committee members so it is premature to discuss at this time.**

**Workshop Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32 – no report at this time.**

**Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees: the following announcements were made.**

**Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 – no report at this time**

**Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – Brother Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP shared information received from Brother Michael Dimech, Chairman that he is cancelling this year's tournament because of lack of participation. Only 5 teams signed up which is well less than prior years ranging from 10 to 16 teams. Covid appears to be hampering participation. Future discussion is needed to determine if a 2023 tourney is viable.**

**Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 - working on a date in May 2023. More details to be provided.**

### ***Unfinished Business –***

**The Grand Council Office continues to attempt to work with Bakersfield Council #100. Brother Fourie reported that no information has been received from the Council for the past two reporting periods. Brothers Fonseca and Espinola reported on efforts to contact Council #100 leaders. Brother Flores has had his phone disconnected. After much discussion, consensus was that we should be focused on contacting Br. Aguirre #100 (reported Treasurer at 807 Chester Avenue in Bakersfield) and that the Grand Secretary send a letter within 30 days consistent with our By-Laws provision putting Council #100 on notice again of possible suspension and expulsion. (The prior letter appending the By-Law could be used as a model for this current letter). They did make an attempt to bring their Council up to date during the last YMI year, however, they have fallen behind in their assessments once again.**

**The Chairman of the Board, Brother Tommy Figueira #573 made the following appointments:**

- a. Organization Committee – Brother Domenic Carinalli #54
- b. Man/Council of the Year – Brother Alex Schmitt #8

The 2023 Grand Council Session was already discussed.

Brother Alex Schmitt #8 re-raised two issues from our last Grand Director's meeting:

- a. Why the Seminarian Education Foundation (SEF) scholarship awards were not posted on the web..on this item, Brothers who are members of the SEF explained that the Board decided to table posting awards on the website pending an inquiry to our tax accountant on tax implications of scholarship awards to the SEF Board. Brother Fourie shared details of the awards that are currently \$200/\$500/\$1000 that are dependent on years in the seminary. Brother Schmitt requested the SEF Board look on ways to be more transparent on award information with its YMI members.
- b. On the second issue of why the SEF is not listed in the Grand Council By-Laws similar to the Education Foundation – Brother Fourie indicated that both the Education Foundation and the SEF are separate incorporated institutions and are outside the YMI Grand Council. Accordingly, the reference to the Education Foundation in the current YMI GC By-Laws should be considered for removal in the next State of the Institute review.

*New Business* – there was no report at this time.

*Immediate Past Grand President's Report* – Brother Nick Francschine #54, IPGP – No additional report beyond his prior State of the Institute report.

*Grand Chaplain's Report* – Father Agnel was on vacation.

*Good of the Order* –

Brother Bob Bartoli #32, PGP thanked all for their condolences received on the passing of his mother and thanks for get well wishes from his current bout with Covid.

The work of our meeting is now completed. Let us not forget the standard under which we are proud to be enrolled. I now declare this meeting adjourned until the next Board of Grand Directors Meeting, which will be November 19, 2022.

*Closing Prayer* - Brother Steve Cresci offered a closing Thanksgiving Prayer

*Adjournment – 10:48 a.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP*

*Br. Michael Amato #613, PGP, DDGP*

*Br. Thomas Fourie #32, PGP, Business Manager*